

Building
**vision, voice
& leadership**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER


**DR. RENE
VAN ACKER**

President and
Vice-Chancellor of the
University of Guelph




2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Building for the Future

 Friday,
June 19th, 2026

 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

 OAC Centennial Arboretum
Centre, 250 Arboretum Rd,
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

AGENDA

Registration and Networking: 9:00 - 9:30 AM

PART 1 - Formal Annual General Meeting: 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Dan Borowec, Board Chair, Rural Ontario Institute

Opening Remarks and Greetings

- **The Honourable Rob Black, P. Ag. (Hon), Senator for Ontario**
- **The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Rural Affairs**
- **MPP Vickers, Parliamentary Assistant of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness**
- **John Cranfield, Dean, Ontario Agricultural College - University of Guelph**
- **Drew Spoelstra, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture**

Approval 2025 AGM Minutes

Financial Report

- i. Introduction from Chris Wray, *Board Treasurer, Rural Ontario Institute*
- ii. Auditor's Report - Murray Short, *RLB Chartered Professional Accountants*

Governance Presentation - Matt Bunch, *Board Director, Rural Ontario Institute*

- i. Acknowledgement of Board Director service of Pat Shaw
- ii. Thanks to Dan Borowec for his service as Chair
- iii. Acknowledgement of staff service Ellen Sinclair and Gabrielle Ferguson

Closing Remarks from ROI Board Chair – Dan Borowec

Adjournment

PART 2 - ROI Building for the Future: 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Welcome

ROI Leadership and Growth - A look at the past year

Kimberly Earls, *Executive Director, Rural Ontario Institute*

Peggy Brekveld, *Leadership Programs Director, Rural Ontario Institute*

Kezia Cowtan, *Data Programs Manager, Rural Ontario Institute*

Building for the Future

Dr. Rene Van Acker, *President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guelph*

Closing Remarks - Adjournment

Lunch 11:30 AM -12:30 PM

Strawberry Social Celebrating Ellen Sinclair & Gabrielle Ferguson 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Let's stay
connected**

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